



Status of Outdoor Play Spaces

To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

From: Dr. James P. Hall, Chief Operating Officer

Date: January 31, 2020

The following report is a response to the motion by Jackie Doherty:

[by Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with follow-up information to the report generated from my April 2018 motion regarding status of outdoor play spaces. The updated report should include information on newly added playgrounds as well as outline plans/timeline to ensure every elementary and middle school has access to safe, age-appropriate outdoor play areas, including collaborating with the City to target for extra oversight those city managed parks that are the only outdoor play space for certain schools.

Many schools have requested upgrades to their play spaces. The availability of funds has been an impediment. Since 2017, there have been two major additions to play spaces. In the summer of 2017, the Moody School received a \$80,000 playground which included \$35,000 in rubber, mulch flooring. Additionally, the McAuliffe school received grant funding for a fitness play space in 2018.

In the late Fall, the City requested that we provide our priorities for play space improvements. We have also participated in meetings with the City related to the safety and maintenance of play spaces adjacent to schools. The following areas were relayed to the City in early January 2020 for consideration if City funds existed for upgrades and maintenance:

- Cardinal O'Connell School requested resurfacing of the play area and stationary playground equipment.
- STEM Academy at Rogers School has no playground equipment.
- Sullivan School requested the back circle area be repaved, another basketball hoop, the repair of railings leading to play area, the repair of back stairs leading to play areas, and the repainting of the "four square" play area.
- Shaughnessy Elementary requested improvements to the yard surrounding its playground.
- Bailey Elementary School requested repairs to playground equipment and additional mulch or rubber pieces for padding below slides.

- Greenhalge Elementary School requested that its playground benches be repaired or replaced.
- Washington Elementary School requested that the wall and fence surrounding its play area be repaired.

Also attached for your reference is an inventory report that was produced in November related to playground equipment in our schools.